

Senator Hartke helped enact landmark legislation, including the progressive programs that made up President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society. Despite fierce opposition, he helped steer Medicare through Congress. He was the Senate's acknowledged champion of higher education and adult education, and he also helped lead the efforts to expand veterans benefits and establish Federal student loan programs.

In the mid-1960s, Senator Hartke put his political future on the line when he became one of the first Senators to oppose the war in Vietnam. In following his conscience, he parted ways with most of his constituents and his good friend President Johnson, but he stuck to his principles and survived a bruising reelection campaign in 1970.

Though Senator Hartke lost his Senate seat in 1976, he became a good friend and adviser to the man who defeated him, Senator RICHARD LUGAR, and he never lost his passion for politics or his home State.

Senator Vance Hartke served the people of Indiana and the U.S. Senate with great distinction. I am honored to add my voice to the chorus of praise for his life's work and legacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO STORM ROYAL

• Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and congratulate a special group of young Coloradans, the Colorado Storm Royal soccer team.

The Colorado Storm Royal is a team in the Under 12 age bracket, U12, and they are coached by Mr. Jim Morrison. Mr. Morrison has coached Colorado youth soccer for the past 17 years and 34 seasons, and has taken his teams to the Western Region tournament eight times. Out of those eight appearances, his teams have reached the final game four times, losing to California teams three previous times and then winning the Championship this past year.

The Colorado Storm Royal had a remarkable record the past 10-month period, with 35 wins and 0 losses. They played their games at the Premier 1 level, which in Colorado is the highest level of competitive youth soccer.

Their accomplishments are certainly commendable—Undeclared and untied in 35 straight Premier 1 games in Colorado; Colorado State Cup Champions, Western Regional Champions, and they were ranked No. 1 in the United States by National Soccer Rankings.com.

The members of this team are all Colorado residents whose families live and work in the Denver area. The commitment by all to make these accomplishments a reality is especially worth noting, because unlike other areas of the country where teams can practice 365 days of the year, we don't have that same luxury in Colorado. So the boys

and their families make a concentrated effort to not only remain active in school and throughout the community but also to get to a more limited practice schedule.

There are 16 individuals on the Colorado Storm Royal team, and I believe they deserve to be mentioned here today. They are: Anise Abdulgaseem, Junior Amaya, Cody Arnold, John Ellison, Matt Hammet, Matthew Hustead, Chris Klebieko, Tyler Lister, Andrew Love, Dirk MacDonald, Matthew Nier, Augustus Ogu, Ryan Rombach, Brendan Roslund, Peter Walker and Charlie Zeller.

To these outstanding young players, their families, their coaches, and their supporters, I offer my most sincere congratulations on a winning season and my best wishes for another outstanding season of Colorado soccer. They are examples of what hard work and determination bring when we set ourselves to achieving goals.●

IN TRIBUTE TO GEORGE GARRIS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, this month George Garriss, the longest serving refuge manager in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced he will be retiring and I rise to salute him. There's no question in my mind that George has done more to protect the wildlife in my State than anyone I know. He is the Teddy Roosevelt of South Carolina.

For years George has been telling me he would retire as soon as he finished this one project. Then he would find another project—and the same thing, he was going to retire when it was done. This went on and on for years and years. It went on because George wanted to leave future generations something good. He pushed to save thousands of acres of natural habitats in my State. Years from now when we still enjoy South Carolina's natural beauty, we can thank George Garriss.

George began his productive career in the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1959, and today is the steward of four South Carolina Lowcountry refuges that he helped create or expand—the ACE Basin, the Santee and Waccamaw Refuges, and Cape Romain. He also successfully saved both the endangered red wolf and loggerhead sea turtles.

We will miss George, and I know all the Members of this body join me in thanking him for his esteemed public service and wishing him happiness and good health in the years ahead.●

VA MARKS THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS CEMETERY SYSTEM

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate 30 years of the VA cemetery system. "Celebrate" may seem a strange word to use in reference to something so closely tied with mourning, but it is appropriate that we do just that. VA's national cemetery system is one of its

most precious resources, providing our veterans the final respect and honor they have earned.

VA's operation of the National Cemetery Administration dates from September 1, 1973, when Congress transferred control of the national cemeteries from the Department of Army to what was then the Veterans Administration. Those cemeteries joined the ones already operated by VA, and the National Cemetery System—now the National Cemetery Administration—was created.

America's history of providing a final resting place to our veterans extends back before 1973, when the Civil War left hundreds of thousands of soldiers dead. In the spirit of Abraham Lincoln's words that the Nation must "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan," Congress established national cemeteries in order to fulfill that commitment.

Today, the National Cemetery Administration ensures that our veterans have a proper burial and maintains the national cemeteries as shrines to their memory. Since taking over the national cemetery system, VA has seen an increase in annual burials from 36,400 to a record 89,300 in 2002. More and more veterans are choosing to be laid to rest in national cemeteries than ever before. This choice is a testament to the devotion that the employees of the VA's National Cemetery Administration show in performing their duties.

In noting the importance of the National Cemetery Administration and in honoring its extensive history, I must also point to the need to ensure its future. Nearly 655,000 veteran are expected to die this year, and even more will die in each of the next 5 years. By the end of 2004, only 64 of the 124 veterans national cemeteries will be available for both casketed and cremated remains. As cemetery capacity decreases, veterans in areas near those closing cemeteries lose access to burial options. In order to ensure that proper funeral honors are provided for veterans and their family members, we must develop new cemeteries and expand existing cemeteries. In such cities as Birmingham, AL; Bakersfield, CA; Columbia/Greenville, SC; Philadelphia, PA; and, in my own State, Sarasota and Jacksonville, FL, more than 175,000 veterans in each of these areas are currently without full burial options. We must ensure that their sacrifice is honored.

One of the most difficult things we do is cope with the death of someone we love. By guaranteeing a burial that benefits the sacrifice of our Nation's soldiers, the National Cemetery Administration mitigates some of that pain and commemorates the service and lives of our veterans.●